



State of Wisconsin  
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5167/1  
FFK:all

## 2017 ASSEMBLY BILL 835

January 12, 2018 – Introduced by Representatives NYGREN, FELZKOWSKI, MURSAU, KITCHENS, BALLWEG, BERNIER, BORN, EDMING, KATSMA, KULP, KRUG, LOUDENBECK, NERISON, NOVAK, PETERSEN, PETRYK, PRONSCHINSKE, QUINN, ROHRKASTE, SPIROS, STEFFEN, SUMMERFIELD, SWEARINGEN, THIESFELDT, TITTL, TRANEL, VANDERMEER, VORPAGEL, RODRIGUEZ and STEINEKE, cosponsored by Senators MARKLEIN, OLSEN, TESTIN, LEMAHIEU, MOULTON and TIFFANY. Referred to Committee on Education.

\*\*\*AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*\*\*

1     **AN ACT** *to renumber and amend* 121.905 (1); *to amend* 115.436 (3) (a); and *to*  
2           *create* 121.905 (1) (b) of the statutes; **relating to:** sparsity aid, the revenue  
3           limit ceiling for school districts, and making an appropriation.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

#### **REVENUE LIMIT CEILING**

This bill increases the revenue limit ceiling for school districts to \$9,400 in the 2018-19 school year, and then increases the ceiling by \$100 each school year until the ceiling reaches \$9,800 in the 2022-23 school year. However, the bill also provides that during the three school years following a school year in which an operating referendum fails in a school district, the school district's revenue limit ceiling is the revenue limit ceiling that applied in the school year during which the referendum was held.

Under current law, the formula for determining a school district's revenue limit does not apply to a school district with per pupil revenue that is less than the revenue limit ceiling. Instead, the school district is allowed to increase its per pupil revenue up to the revenue limit ceiling. The current revenue limit ceiling is \$9,100.

#### **SPARSITY AID**

Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, this bill increases the sparsity aid per pupil amount from \$300 to \$400. Under current law, a school district is eligible for sparsity aid if the school district's membership in the previous school year did not exceed 745 pupils and the school district's membership divided by the school district's area in square miles is less than ten. Current law also provides a reduced amount

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of sparsity aid to a school district that was eligible to receive sparsity aid in the previous school year but does not satisfy the criteria in the current school year.

For further information see the ***state and local*** fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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***The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:***

1           **SECTION 1.** 115.436 (3) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

2           115.436 **(3)** (a) Beginning in the ~~2009-10~~ 2018-19 school year, from the  
3           appropriation under s. 20.255 (2) (ae) and subject to par. (b), the department shall  
4           pay to each school district eligible for sparsity aid \$300 \$400 multiplied by the  
5           membership in the previous school year.

6           **SECTION 2.** 121.905 (1) of the statutes is renumbered 121.905 (1) (a) and  
7           amended to read:

8           121.905 **(1)** (a) In Except as provided in par. (b), in this section, “revenue  
9           ceiling” means ~~\$9,000 in the 2011-12 school year and in the 2012-13 school year and~~  
10          \$9,100 in the ~~2013-14~~ 2017-18 school year, \$9,400 in the 2018-19 school year, \$9,500  
11          in the 2019-20 school year, \$9,600 in the 2020-21 school year, \$9,700 in the 2021-22  
12          school year, and \$9,800 in the 2022-23 school year and in any subsequent school year.

13          **SECTION 3.** 121.905 (1) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

14          121.905 **(1)** (b) 1. If a referendum on a resolution adopted by a school board  
15          under s. 121.91 (3) (a) was held during the 2015-16, 2016-17, or 2017-18 school year  
16          and a majority of those voting rejected the resolution, the school district’s “revenue  
17          ceiling” is \$9,100 in the 3 school years following the school year during which the  
18          referendum was held.

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2. If a referendum on a resolution adopted by a school board under s. 121.91 (3) (a) is held during the 2018-19 school year or any school year thereafter and a majority of those voting reject the resolution, for the 3 school years following the school year during which the referendum is held, that school district's "revenue ceiling" is the applicable amount under par. (a) for the school year during which the referendum is held.

## SECTION 4. Fiscal changes.

(1) In the schedule under section 20.005 (3) of the statutes for the appropriation to the department of public instruction under section 20.255 (2) (ae) of the statutes, the dollar amount for fiscal year 2018-19 is increased by \$6,454,600 to increase funding for the purpose for which the appropriation is made.

**SECTION 5. Effective date.**

(1) SPARSITY AID INCREASE. The treatment of section 115.436 (3) (a) of the statutes takes effect on July 1, 2018.

**(END)**